

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 207

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Zilla Kate Winter
Hawkins of Somerville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Zilla Kate Winter Hawkins; and

WHEREAS, Zilla Kate Winter Hawkins was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Jim Tom Winter and Mary Christian Gable Winter, Zilla Hawkins was born on September 16, 1920, in Vardaman, Mississippi; she was the tenth of eleven children; and

WHEREAS, a 1937 graduate of Charleston High School, Mrs. Hawkins received her Bachelor of Science degree from Memphis State University in May 1953; and

WHEREAS, Zilla Hawkins married Raymond Hawkins, Sr., a World War II Army veteran, on January 15, 1940; Mr. Hawkins owned several grocery stores over the years in Somerville, and the couple worked side by side in all of them; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hawkins served as a school teacher in Mississippi and at Fayette County Elementary and High School for many years before her retirement in 1983, having most recently taught at Bolivar Central Middle School; she taught history and English and specialized in seventh and eighth grades; and

WHEREAS, Zilla Hawkins was an active and devout member of First Baptist Church in Somerville, which she served faithfully for many years, teaching Sunday School and Training Union and coaching Bible Sword drills; she hosted a weekly Intercessory Prayer Group in her home and ministered to those considering abortions; and

WHEREAS, active in her community, Mrs. Hawkins tutored in her home and at the Wilder Youth Developmental Center in Somerville, visited people in prison, taught the Girls Auxiliary, represented the retired teachers union in Nashville, served on the Board of Trustees at Union University, and volunteered at the National HealthCare Center in Somerville; she led the Snap, Crackle & Pop Aerobics Group until she was ninety-two years old; and

WHEREAS, Zilla Hawkins was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Zilla Hawkins is lovingly remembered by her children, Susie Kate (Greg) Mills, Dr. Raymond (Cindy) Hawkins, and Steve (Jackie) Hawkins; her brother, Charles Winter; her five grandchildren, Andrea (Austin) Baker, Joel (Jaclyn) Parker, Virginia (Robert) Blankenship, Heather (Jarrod) Soblarvarro, Jeremy (Jennifer) Hawkins; and her thirteen great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hawkins was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and nine brothers and sisters; and

WHEREAS, Zilla Hawkins leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Zilla Kate Winter Hawkins, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Hawkins.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.